Dismantling Systemic Barriers: Reenvisioning Equity and Inclusion

Award Program

AAIDD 146th Annual Meeting
June 13–15, 2022, Jacksonville, Florida
June 27–29, 2022, Virtual

Rebirth and Reformation, 2021
Austin Myers, Digital Art
2022 Honors

Awards of the AAIDD Board and President
Presidential Award
Anthony M. Rodriguez, PhD, FAAIDD

Distinguished Career Recognition
Marty Ford, JD

Awards of AAIDD Interest Networks
Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award
Cameron Neece, PhD

Reimagining Spirituality Leadership Award
Jeff McNair, PhD

Fellows
Rhonda S. Black, PhD
Steven Erickson, PharmD
Grace L. Francis, PhD
Jessica Kramer, PhD
Mark McManus, PhD
Michelle Reynolds, PhD
Dion White, MBA

2022 Honors

Awards Luncheon
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 – 12:00 noon
Presented by: Barbara A. Kleist, MEd, JD, FAAIDD
Chairperson, Awards and Fellowship Committee

Awards of the AAIDD
Early Career Award
Mélina Rivard, PhD

Education Award
Jennifer L. Jones, PhD, FAAIDD

Hervey B. Wilbur Historic Preservation Award
Lisa A. Sonneborn, MFA

International Award
Seunghee Park, PhD

Leadership Award
Matthew Kaufman, MD

Media Award
David Egan

Policy Award
Nicole Jorwic, JD

Research Award
Carli Friedman, PhD

Service to the Association Award
A. Michael Bloom, MA, MS, FAAIDD

Service to the Field Award
Joseph M. Macbeth
Presidential Award
Anthony M. Rodriguez, PhD, FAAIDD

Anthony Rodriguez, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education at Providence College. He earned a master’s and doctorate in special education at the University of New Mexico and a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Western Connecticut State University.

Prior to joining Providence College in 2012, Dr. Rodriguez taught mathematics for 13 years in the rural and urban settings, respectively, of Zia Pueblo and the Albuquerque public school system. His community-based mathematics program at Cibola High School was awarded an Intel Innovation Grant in 2012 to continue the initiative that created jobs, built partnerships to local businesses, and taught real-world mathematics skills within a landscaping program.

Dr. Rodriguez currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Segue Institute for Learning and is a past member of the AAIDD Board of Directors. He has served on numerous AAIDD committees, including the joint AAIDD/The Arc Public Policy Committee and the Advisory Committee for the 12th edition of Intellectual Disability: Definition, Diagnosis, Classification, and Systems of Support (2021).

Dr. Rodriguez received the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico and was preferred to Fellow of the Association in 2021.

Distinguished Career Recognition
Marty Ford, JD

Marty Ford, JD, is Senior Advisor at The Arc of the United States. She earned a JD from the George Washington University National Law Center, a master’s in communications design from Pratt Institute, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia.

Ms. Ford is a leader in federal public policy affecting people with disabilities, with over 35 years of experience in long-term services and supports, Medicaid, and Social Security disability policy issues (including Supplemental Security Income). She has testified numerous times before Congress and has been a resource to the press throughout her years of work on behalf of people with IDD. She has led a number of national disability consortia activities, notably the joint AAIDD/The Arc Public Policy Committee, the annual Disability Policy Seminar, and the biannual joint Public Policy Agenda.

The fourth of seven siblings, Ms. Ford got her start in the disability world when one of her younger brothers was severely injured at birth from lack of oxygen. She and her siblings grew up together at a time when community-based support services were nonexistent, especially for people with challenging behaviors. At a time when her brother’s residential care became dangerous, Ms. Ford left a career in commercial design in New York City and moved to Washington, DC, to become involved in public policy. Her brother’s and her family’s experiences throughout his life have played a major role in informing her work on behalf of people with IDD and their families.
Méline Rivard, PhD, is a psychologist and a Professor in the Department of Psychology of the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). She co-chairs the UQAM Chaire de déficience intellectuelle et troubles du comportement (a research chair in ID and problem behaviors) and maintains numerous collaborations with colleagues from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

Dr. Rivard’s research focuses are challenging behaviors in early childhood and IDD. She developed a program to assess and improve the service trajectories of families of children with IDD from early identification to school enrolment, and she created and validated, in both French and English, the Evaluation of the Trajectory of Autism for Parents-Diagnostic Version 1 (ETAP-1) questionnaire, the first quantitative and standardized tool documenting the quality of the service trajectory of families of a child with IDD.

Dr. Rivard and her team translated and validated the French version of the Beach Center Family Quality of Life Scale. She also leads the Québec implementation of the UK-created Early Positive Approaches to Support, a support program developed with and for parents.

Dr. Rivard has been awarded close to $5 million in grants and has published extensively. She is the francophone editor-in-chief of the Journal on Developmental Disabilities and an associate editor of both the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research and Research in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Rivard was honored with the 2020 Young Researcher Award from the UQAM Faculty of Humanities.

Jennifer L. Jones, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science, Director of the Institute for Developmental Disabilities, and one of two core faculty members for the Developmental Disabilities Graduate Certificate at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

Dr. Jones’s research interests focus on community engagement and instruction, with a goal of fostering resilient families, inclusive communities, and a high quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In her roles at OSU, she mentors undergraduate and graduate students in research, and she has trained over 1,600 undergraduate and graduate students who have provided more than 20,000 volunteer hours of service-learning through collaboration with community disability service and advocacy agencies.

Dr. Jones earned a doctorate at OSU in 2009 and returned to her alma mater and home department as a tenure-track faculty member in 2013. She was preferred to Fellow of the Association in 2016 and currently serves on the editorial board of Inclusion.
Hervey B. Wilbur Historic Preservation Award

Lisa A. Sonneborn, MFA

Lisa A. Sonneborn, MFA, has served the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University in several roles and has been its Director of Media Arts and Culture for more than 11 years. She earned a bachelor’s degree in art history at Arcadia University and a MFA in film and media arts from Temple University.

For more than 25 years, Ms. Sonneborn has produced media focused on issues meaningful to the disability community through filmmaking; oral history preservation; and the collection, processing, and cataloguing of archives of the intellectual disability movement. Her Visionary Voices project began as the development of an archive of the disability movement in Pennsylvania and expanded over time to have a larger scope.

Ms. Sonneborn has videotaped the oral histories of leaders with disabilities and has catalogued several archives, including those of the Public Interest Law Center and the papers of both Tom Gilhool, an attorney who litigated the Pennhurst case, and Dennis Haggerty, an attorney and parent of a child with an intellectual disability, whose personal and professional correspondence, newspaper clippings, photos, and manuscripts document the political and social trends from the 1970s to the present. Recently, she began a project of archiving of the individual records of individuals who lived at the Pennhurst Center from its opening in 1908 through its closure in 1987.

Interviews, documentaries, and photographs from these projects can be found on the Institute on Disabilities website, and Ms. Sonneborn hopes to eventually make the full archive available to researchers around the world through the Temple Libraries’ Special Collections.

International Award

Seunghee Park, PhD

Seunghee Park, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Special Education at Ewha Woman’s University (EWU) in Seoul, South Korea. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at EWU and both a master’s and a doctorate in special education at Syracuse University, where she was a student of Burton Blatt, Wolf Wolfensberger, Gunnar Dybwad, Steve Taylor, and Robert Bogdan.

Dr. Park is a pioneer of modern special education in Korea. Her 1999 paper in the most prestigious special education journal in Korea, the Journal of the Korean Society for Special Education, entitled “Instructional adaptations for students with disabilities included in general education class” is the journal’s most cited paper to date. She contributed to the revision of the Special Education Promotion Act of 1994, which prioritized inclusive over segregated educational opportunities. She was the principal investigator for the Ministry of Education’s “Five-year Development Plan for Special Education (2003–2007),” which, when rolled out in 2001, established a framework for special education that has been continuously followed in every subsequent five-year plan to date.

In 2009, Dr. Park initiated a model of supported employment for people with IDD at EWU. Under her leadership, it has been in continuous implementation and has been replicated at the National Assembly of Korea, Sungshin Women’s University, and Sogang University.

Dr. Park translated and published the 9th, 10th, and 11th editions of the AAIDD Manual and is presently translating the 12th edition. At EWU, she was selected Best Lecturer in 2001, and her Disability & Society course was one of the 20 lectures selected as Best E-class in 2020.
Leadership Award

Matthew Kaufman, MD

Matthew Kaufman, MD, is CEO of StationMD. As an emergency room (ER) doctor in New York, he saw an unfortunate pattern in which individuals with IDD were repeatedly sent to the ER for non-urgent care.

In response, in 2014 Dr. Kaufman founded StationMD, a telemedicine company designed to improve access to medical care for people with IDD and other underserved populations. Under his expertise and leadership, StationMD has grown into a robust system of specially trained and board-certified doctors, technologists, and support staff that currently serves over 30,000 people across 12 states. About 89% of the time, StationMD doctors can treat an individual from the comfort of their home.

Dr. Kaufman is the editor-in-chief and a coauthor of the First Aid for the Medicine Clerkship book series published by McGraw Hill. In addition, he practices emergency medicine with the North Shore-LIJ Health System in the New York City area.

Dr. Kaufman earned his MD at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and trained in emergency and internal medicine, hematology, and oncology at Northwell Health. He was recognized in 2019 as one of Modern Healthcare’s Top 25 Healthcare Innovators and was the 2021 Ernst and Young New Jersey Entrepreneur of the Year.

Media Award

David Egan

David Egan is an advocate for people with Down syndrome and related IDDs and the author of a memoir, More Alike Than Different: My Life With Down Syndrome, published in 2020 by Prometheus Books. He has held competitive jobs for over two decades and is currently a Community Relations Coordinator at SourceAmerica near his home in Vienna, Virginia.

When he was 8 years-old and swimming in Special Olympics, Mr. Egan dreamed about winning competitive races. As a teen, his dreams turned toward having job and changing attitudes toward people with IDD. He achieved his dreams, and along the way he has inspired others to live theirs.

Mr. Egan served as a Special Olympics Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (IGM) class of 2014–2018. As an IGM, he spoke to audiences to help spread the message of inclusion and dignity. He also volunteered at Special Olympics World Games in Raleigh, North Carolina; Athens, Greece; and AbuDhabi, Dubai. In 2015, he was selected as the first person with ID to serve as a Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Public Policy Fellow. As a Fellow, he worked for the Ways and Means Social Security subcommittee on Capitol Hill and with the National Down Syndrome Society. Today, Mr. Egan represents self-advocates on the National Institutes of Health Down Syndrome Consortium and continues to deliver speeches to audiences around the world.
Policy Award
Nicole Jorwic, JD

Nicole Jorwic, JD, is a special education attorney and the Chief of Advocacy and Campaigns at Caring Across Generations. She is also serving as Court Monitor for the settlement agreement in Lane v. Brown, which includes closing sheltered workshops and advancing competitive integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. She earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Illinois and a JD at the Loyola University School of Law.

Ms. Jorwic has had a number of roles in her career, most recently serving The Arc of the United States, first as Senior Director of Public Policy and then as Senior Executive Officer of State Advocacy. Other prior roles have included Senior Policy Advisor and Manager of the Employment First Initiative in Illinois and CEO/President of the Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities.

Ms. Jorwic is a nationally recognized leader in U.S. healthcare and disability policy. She has helped develop and implement legislation in long-term care, Medicaid, Medicare for All, Medicare for America, Medicaid buy-in proposals, and other healthcare reform bills.

Ms. Jorwic is the older of two children and has watched her parents navigate not only care for her brother Chris, who has autism, but for her three grandparents as well, something that fuels her passion for the creation of a better system for everyone.

Research Award
Carli Friedman, PhD

Carli Friedman, PhD, is the Director of Research for CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of Delaware and, at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), earned a master’s in disability and human development and a doctorate in disability studies.

Dr. Friedman’s research focuses on long-term services and supports, HCBS waivers, employment services, disability rights, sexuality, stigma and prejudice, ableism, and quality metrics. Over the past 10 years—as a graduate student, then as a postdoc research associate at UIC, a postdoc affiliate of the University of Washington, and in her present role—Dr. Friedman has authored or coauthored over 300 journal articles, book chapters, research briefs, and reports focusing on quality of life and community integration of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Medicaid HCBS, and ableism. In addition, she contributed to two iterations of the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities while a postdoc at UIC.

Dr. Friedman’s research regularly demonstrates practical solutions for human service organizations, suggesting specific strategies to improve supports, which has a direct impact on the lives of people who receive these organization’s services. ResearchGate metrics place her impact score as higher than more than 85% of scholars in the platform and indicate that her publications have informed tens of thousands of scholars to date.
A. Michael Bloom, MA, MS, FAAIDD

A. Michael Bloom, MA, MS, FAAIDD, is the Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer for Incompas Human Services, Inc. He earned master’s degrees from Brandeis University and Villanova University in social policy and psychology, respectively, and was preferred to Fellow of the Association in 2012.

Mr. Bloom has served in a variety of leadership roles in human services organizations throughout his career, developing and promoting the highest quality of support programs for people with IDD and their families. He is the author of the book *The Accidental Caregiver’s Survival Guide: Your Roadmap to Caregiving Without Regret*.

A member of AAIDD for almost 25 years, Mr. Bloom has energetically served the Association at the state, regional, and national levels. At the state level, he served terms as President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the AAIDD Massachusetts Chapter, and he delivered a keynote presentation to the AAIDD Wisconsin Chapter conference. In addition, Mr. Bloom served two terms as President of the AAIDD Northeast Region X.

At the national level, Mr. Bloom’s service to the Association has included co-chairing the Assembly of Geographic Regions; co-chairing the Local Arrangements Committee for the 141st AAIDD Conference in Hartford; and serving on several national conference-planning committees and as a proposal reviewer, scholarship reviewer, and moderator. In addition, Mr. Bloom has made presentations at AAIDD conferences and webinars, and he co-facilitated the virtual social hour during the 2021 AAIDD virtual annual meeting.

Joseph M. Macbeth

Joseph M. Macbeth is the CEO and President of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP). He is a leader in the movement to recognize direct support as a profession and frequently speaks on workforce challenges that affect the disability system.

Mr. Macbeth has raised awareness about the importance of credentials for professionalizing the DSP role. He collaborated with the State University of New York to develop a Disability Studies Certificate program and facilitate its use by over 500 DSPs.

Mr. Macbeth has served on the National Advisory Boards of the College of Direct Support and the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. He was recently appointed by President Biden to the President’s Committee for Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) for a two-year term, and he is a guest faculty member at the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities.

Mr. Macbeth produced a 2011 award-winning job preview video, *Working as a Direct Support Professional: We Get It Done*; edited a 2018 special issue of Impact on the direct support workforce and people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities; and coauthored PCPID’s 2017 Report to the President, *America’s Direct Support Workforce Crisis: Effects on People with Intellectual Disabilities, Families, Communities and the U.S. Economy*. Mr. Macbeth was recognized as a 2020 National Honoree by the National Historic Recognition Project for his significant national contributions in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities in the United States between 2000 and 2020.
Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award
Psychology Interest Network
Cameron Neece, PhD

Cameron Neece, PhD, is a psychologist and Professor at Loma Linda University. She earned advanced degrees in clinical psychology from UCLA. Dr. Neece focuses on childhood disorders, parenting, and family processes. The majority of her work is conducted with underserved, primarily Latino and Spanish-speaking parents of children with IDD.

Dr. Neece was inspired to enter the field by a close family friend with Down syndrome whose parents worked hard to help him accomplish his goals. Seeing his successes made her want to help other families support their children with IDD in the same way.

A Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) Division 33 on Autism and Intellectual Disability, Dr. Neece has received numerous research awards and has served in leadership roles for both APA Division 33 and the AAIDD Psychology Interest Network.

Reimagining Spirituality Leadership Award
Religion & Spirituality Interest Network
Jeff McNair, PhD

Jeff McNair, PhD, is Professor of special education at California Baptist University (CBU), training teachers to educate students with extensive needs. He earned a master’s and a doctorate in special education at Cal State Los Angeles and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, respectively.

Dr. McNair founded a master’s degree program in disability studies at CBU, arguably the first graduate program in disability ministry.

Dr. McNair saw the potential for local faith communities to aid in community integration for people with IDD. For the last 30 years, he and his wife Kathi have facilitated The Light & Power Company, a ministry that includes adults with IDD. He also worked with the Joni and Friends organization, which allowed him to share Biblical perspectives on disability and disability ministries in 21 countries on five continents.
Continuous AAIDD Membership

Congratulations on your continuous membership in AAIDD!

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